

HOUSE RESOLUTION 31
By Todd

A RESOLUTION to recognize Walter E. Crews on the occasion of his retirement from the Memphis Police Department.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those law enforcement professionals who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm, always remaining true to their motto, "To protect and serve"; and

WHEREAS, Walter E. Crews is one such estimable officer who has served the Memphis Police Department for over 30 years with ardor and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Director Crews is taking a much-deserved retirement from a distinguished law enforcement career that has spawned many societal changes; and

WHEREAS, the Valedictorian of the Memphis Police Department Class of 1969, Walter Crews has persisted in his educational pursuits, endeavoring to remain abreast of current issues in law enforcement and administration: he attended the FBI Hostage Negotiation School, the Tennessee Law Enforcement Executive Development Training, the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Training and the FBI National Executive Institute; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure with the Memphis Police Department, Director Crews demonstrated his commitment to the city's youth, as he organized the development of the Youth Violence Abatement Program, implemented the DARE and GREAT programs in city schools

and supervised the programs' administration, established conflict resolution training programs for officers working in the Memphis City Schools and initiated the City's involvement with the Mendez Drug Prevention Method in public schools; and

WHEREAS, Walter E. Crews proved himself an adept administrator whose devotion to the Department was invaluable; he developed the first-ever strategic planning process and plan for the Memphis Police Department, secured funding (in the astounding amount of 17 million dollars) to renovate the former police headquarters, initiated the accreditation process for the Department through the Council on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies and obtained the corporate funding necessary to remodel the Memphis Police Museum; and

WHEREAS, Director Crews designed the nationally recognized Crisis Intervention Team, a group of specially trained officers who respond to calls for police services for the mentally ill, and established the Family Trouble Center, a police-sponsored counseling facility for battered spouses and their assailants; and

WHEREAS, drawing upon his passion for proactive law enforcement policies, Walter Crews entered the political arena when he lobbied for one year at the State Capitol to establish the first state law requiring thumbprint identification of pawn shop customers; and

WHEREAS, widely regarded as an expert in his field, Director Crews has published articles in several books, magazines and newspapers; and

WHEREAS, Walter E. Crews has been noted by numerous authorities as an outstanding officer of the law, being recognized in *Who's Who in Law Enforcement*, being named Officer of the Year by the Optimist International and receiving the Award for Public Service from the U.S. Department of Justice, the Outstanding Law Enforcement Award from the Southeast Shrine, the Medal of Valor and the Medal of Service from the Memphis Police Department and the Award for Public Safety and Outstanding Contributions to the Community from the Jewish Federation of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career with the Memphis Police Department, Director Crews has served with the utmost professionalism and intensity, winning the unqualified respect and admiration of his fellow officers and the public alike; and

WHEREAS, Walter E. Crews exemplifies the values of hard work, compassion and devotion to community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean and diligent officer of the law; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we extend to Walter E. Crews our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.